

Visual alerts shown to evoke quicker reactions than alerts through other senses

February 27 2012



Research published in *Intelligent Decision Technologies* tested different sensory modalities and reliability levels. Credit: IOS Press

New research has shown that visual alerting methods are still considered to be the most trustworthy, as compared to auditory or tactile alerts. This is shown by research conducted by a team of scientists at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, USA.

The research *Alert Characteristics and Identification of Avatars on a Virtual Battlefield* by James P. Bliss, Rachel Liebman and J. Christopher Brill is published in the current issue (6:2) of the journal *Intelligent*

Decision Technologies.

Most research to date has been limited to the visual or auditory signal modality. The question of how signal reliability interacts with signal modality to impact reaction behaviors is important with regard to applied environments such as the military battlefield.

In the study, thirty undergraduate students completed two sessions of a virtual reconnaissance mission. During each session, they received ten alerts about nearly opposing forces. They indicated trust or [distrust](#) of each alert, and subsequently identified the [avatar](#) as friend or foe. Results indicated that participants trusted more historically reliable alerts, and that they showed quicker identification behaviour for visually presented alerts.

Provided by IOS Press

Citation: Visual alerts shown to evoke quicker reactions than alerts through other senses (2012, February 27) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-02-visual-shown-evoke-quicker-reactions.html>

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